

My name is Reuben Parks. I am a resident of Day County SD and I am a family farmer in Day County.

In reviewing these proposed legislative drafts that have been presented at this time, I find it necessary to speak up and voice my opposition to this legislation.

I will focus my concerns for the landowners within the "closed basin" in which I live and farm.

Most of these proposals are not new. There have been many attempts to legislate and many discussions in the past. However, these drafts are going beyond all previous attempts to regulate, tax, and administer watersheds.

Most concerning to me is the disregard shown by the sponsors and their supporters of these drafts for the interests of the federally designated "closed basin". For some reason whether it be political, financial, or administrative these discussions chose to ignore the unique needs and existence of the "closed basin". The "closed basin" is as definable as are any of the other watersheds mentioned. The "closed basin" landowners have every right to demand to be recognized as an independent entity in this discussion and to expect to be allowed to govern the basin from within its boundaries.

These drafts include modifications to existing statute law which will make resistance to this proposed legislation, in reality, impossible once enacted.

The "closed basin" would be divided up between adjoining watersheds, stripping any hope of meaningful representation or management from within the "closed basin", while stripping the taxes that would be levied against and collected from acres within the basin for outside interests to enhance the adjoining districts boundaries and authority.

The governor himself said in 2011 that the drainage of the closed basin is economically unfeasible.

The disregard for these concerns I have stated is unacceptable to me and other landowners within the "closed basin".

I will resist this attempt to create an administrative, regulatory, and financial "night mare" for landowners within the "closed basin". And I would hope others will come forward when made aware of the intent of this proposed legislation and resist this proposed legislation.

*Reuben B. Parks 11/21/12*